

FLD  
56

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

COUNTRY	USSR (Yakutsk ASSR)	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	50X1
SUBJECT	Town Plan of Aldan	DATE DISTR.	22 April 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	7	50X1
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES	<input type="text"/>	50X1

50X1

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:  50X1

50X1

Comment: With reference to page 5,  Comment, the 50X1 Soviet railroad timetable for 1950 lists the town as Bolshoy Never.

LIBRARY SUBJECT AND AREA CODES

50X1

3-02-0406	4/55
621.43	339N
3-5/735.9	339N
853.3	339N
854.2	339N
850.01	339N
857.11	339N
891	339N
753.781	339N

(H)

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1

STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	#	AEC						
-------	----	------	----	------	----	-----	----	-----	---	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--

Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

50X1

REPORT NO. 

COUNTRY USSR (Yakutsk ASSR)

DATE DISTR. 28 Mar 55

SUBJECT Town Plan of Aldan

NO. OF PAGES 6

DATE OF INFORMATION REFERENCES: PLACE ACQUIRED 

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1

SOURCE 

1. Source estimated that there were 8,000 to 9,000 inhabitants in Aldan (N 58-37, E 125-24) when he left the Aldan area in fall 1953. Before Aldan had received its present name, it was classified as a workers' settlements (rabochiy posëlok), and was called "Nezametnyy". All the houses in Aldan were built of wood and had plank roofs. The majority of the houses were one story high. The streets were not paved and there were no street lights. Oktyabrskaya and Sovetskaya ulitsi had wooden sidewalks. The majority of the homes had vegetable gardens. The homes were electrically lighted but very poorly since the electric power station was over loaded. Current was supplied by the electric-power station in the village of Yakokut, about 30 kilometers from Aldan. This electric-power station supplied power to the whole rayon.
2. There was piped water in Aldan. Drinking water was obtained from wells and sold to individual householders at the rate of 20 kopeks per 10-liter pail of water. Melted ice and snow were not used. The wells furnished clean lime water (izvestkovaya voda) which did not have to be boiled.
3. There was no sewage system in Aldan. Every house had its own outhouse which was cleaned out by sanitation workers (asenizatory). The fecal matter was hauled out to the Sovkhoz Udarnik on the edge of town where it was used as manure. Every house had a pit dug in the back yard for garbage disposal. When the pit filled up, it was covered over and a new one was dug. Pits were usually dug in summer when the ground was not frozen.
4. People in Aldan were generally healthy. Source had never heard of typhoid and said that there was very little dysentery in the Aldan region. Every spring inoculations against typhus were given to those whose immunization had expired. There were plenty of doctors in Aldan and its vicinity. Feldshers were permitted to treat a patient up to 10 days, after which, if the patient still needed attention, he was sent to a doctor or to the hospital. Aldan had one hospital with seven wards and a separate insane asylum. Five of the hospital wards were called: Women's, Maternity, Children's, Surgical, and Infectious Diseases wards. Source did not remember the names of the other wards.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

5. The street names were not changed during source's residence in Aldan. Source did not know the pre-revolutionary names of the streets. Source did not live in Aldan itself and when he visited Aldan he paid little attention to the house numbers. However, he recalled that house numbering started from the center of town. Facing away from the center of town, even numbers were on the left side, and odd numbers were on the right side of the street.
6. Aldan was not divided into rayons nor did the town's suburbs have special names. At the time of the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in 1950, there were several election districts in the city. Source did not know how many there were and what their borders were but remembers the location of three election offices.
  - (a) One was in School No. 3 (No. 47 on the city plan), another in a
  - (b) Theater on Oktyabrskaya ulitsa (No. 7 on the plan), and a third in the
  - (c) Dom Kultury (No. 40 on the plan).
7. Quite a few families in Aldan owned their own homes but the majority lived in large government houses. The latter, in most cases, were former large, private homes whose owners could not afford to keep them and who, therefore, sold them to the government. About 20 families lived in each apartment building, one family to a room. The larger rooms were subdivided and partitioned off to hold several families. In many of these apartment buildings there was only one kitchen, while in others, extra kitchens were added. In either case, the kitchens were shared by several families, which led to much wrangling and unpleasantness.
8. One newspaper, the Aldanskiy Rabochiy, was published in Aldan. In addition, a few private radio sets were owned by the populace. The city also had a radio re-laying system which transmitted to homes via loud-speakers. Source never heard any broadcasts in the Russian language from abroad, but he heard from friends that there was a radio station called the "Voice of America" which broadcasts in the Russian language. His friends did not tell him what the contents of these broadcasts were because, according to them, listening to foreign stations was forbidden.
9. There were two hotels in Aldan: the "AYaM" on Orochenskaya ulitsa (No. 101 on the plan) and the "Trest" on the corner of Svetkaya and Razreznaya ulitsi (No. 100 on the plan). In order to spend a night in these hotels, a traveler had to give his passport to the hotel for the duration of his stay there. The cost was five rubles per night.
10. In Aldan, all telephones were paid for by the government and were installed in offices or possibly in the homes of some of the executives. There were no private phones. It was impossible to obtain a telephone unless it was necessary for one's work.
11. According to source, there were about 200 MVD "policemen" or militiya and 500 MGB soldiers in the Aldan area. <sup>1</sup> The MVD wore green uniforms with red shoulder boards. They guarded forced labor camps, Komendatury, and the movements of resettled peoples who were restricted to certain areas. The civilian population somewhat feared the militiya because they were police but had no fear of the MGB troops who were regarded as regular soldiers.
12. Following is a legend to the Aldan town plan on page 7. Numbers in parentheses refer to numbers indicated on the plan.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

-3-

Legend To The Aldan City Plan

- (1) Explosives (ammonal) dump consisting of four or five low-roofed sheds half dug into a 1,000-meter-high mountain on the northwest outskirts of Aldan. The sheds are located on the opposite side of the mountain from Aldan so that if there is an explosion its force will be directed away from the city. This dump is regularly attended by no more than two or three men. It is under control of the Directorate of Secondary Enterprises (Upravleniye Podsobnikh Predpriyati) of the Aldan Trust of the Yakutsk Gold Industry (Aldanskiy Trest Yakutskoy Zolotonosnoy Promyshlennosti). This dump and one at Bolshoy Never (N 53-59, E 124-10) supply explosives for blasting at the various open-pit mines in the Aldan region. Once according to source 40 tons of ammonal from Aldan and Bolshoy Never were used for one explosion at four open-pit mines (razrezy) in the Kuranakh region.
- (2) Elementary School No. 23.
- (3) Aldan District Hospital
- (4) Technical Supply Office (Tekhnicheskoye Snabzheniye). This office supplies motors and parts for trucks, cars, and industrial equipment.
- (5) Consumer Good Store No. 3.
- (6) Prosecutor's office (prokuratura).
- (7) Aldan Kulturnyy Dom and Komsomol Clubhouse.
- (8) Bakery
- (9) Rayon Consumer's Cooperative Tea House.
- (10) MVD Police Station (Militiya).<sup>1</sup> Source said these police wear dark-blue or black uniforms.
- (11) MGB headquarters for the Aldan area.
- (12) Football stadium.
- (13) Sewing Association of Handicraftsmen (Poshivochnaya Artel).
- (14) MGB garage.
- (15) Registry of Vital Statistics (ZAGS - Zapis Aktov Grazhdanskogo Sostoyaniya)
- (16) School No. 2 (Vtoraya Shkola) a two-story building.
- (17) Central Gas Station.
- (18) Market place.
- (19) Consumer Goods Store No. 12.
- (20) Sewing Association of Invalids (Poshivochnaya Artel Invalidov). This association provides employment for all kinds of handicapped and overage people, including war veterans, who otherwise would have no means of employment.
- (21) Dam and overflow lake for the two canals which meet just to the north of it.
- (22) Warehouse containing supply of firewood, and a sawmill.
- (23) Store of the Machine-Repair Plant (Mashino-Remontnyy Zavod) (see No. 42 of legend).
- (24) Office of the Machine-Repair Plant.
- (25) Restaurant.
- (26) Barber shop.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

- (27) School No. 1.
- (28) Mining Institute (Gornyy Tekhnik), a two-story building. The institute has a three-year course for test masters (gorniy master) and mine developers (gorniy eksploata-sionnyy) and a four-year course for surveying geologists (geolograzvedochnyy) and electricians (elektromekhanik). One of each of the last two is stationed in every mine. Often recently-graduated, young geologists, have trouble getting jobs as geologists. They must then take jobs as test masters, which pay 1200 rubles a month instead of 1800 rubles geologists receive. On the other hand, test masters working in the taiga for the Geological Survey Section receive 1800 rubles a month, and, of this, 600 rubles is paid for field service.
- (29) Communist Party office.
- (30) Garage of the Transport Office (Kontora transporta). This is the central trans- portation agency for the Aldan region. It has a supply of about 200 trucks, buses, and cars, primarily trucks. It was first set up in Aldan in 1948 from a parent office in Yakutsk. It is directly subordinate to the Aldan Trust, Yakutsk Gold Industry. It supplies trucks for heavy construction, industrial, and mining pro- jects, but not for minor jobs or work connected with sovkhozy or kolkhozy. Source said that truck drivers here are better off in pay and working conditions than those who work for any other organization.
- (31) Two-story apartment building.
- (32) Supply office (ProdSnab-Prodovolstvennoye snabzheniye). The chief of ProdSnab is an MVD major.
- (33) ProdSnab garage.
- (34) Garage of the Directorate of Secondary Enterprises (UPP). The UPP is subordinate to the Aldan Trust of the Yakutsk Gold Industry. Its main role is to supply electric- power stations, kolkhozy, and other settlements in the Aldan region with trucks and cars when needed. Most of its vehicles are old and in bad condition because it receives discarded trucks from the Aldan Directorate of the Amuro-Yakutskaya Magistral (AYAM) when they are two-to three-years old.
- (35) Bread factory.
- (36) Beer factory.
- (37) Central Supply Base (Tsentralnaya Prodovolstvennaya Baza). This is the ProdSnab warehouse (see No. 32 of legend) from which all the stores of Aldan are supplied with food and other consumer commodities.
- (38) Prison. There are usually no more than 200 prisoners here. The guards are members of the MGB and are between 35 and 40 years of age. 1 Daily rations consist of 800 grams of bread, 18 grams of sugar, and 50 grams of fish per prisoner.
- (39) Hospital for Venereal Diseases.
- (40) Orphanage (Detdom).
- (41) Fire house.   There are about 30 firemen, all of them members of the MGB, but only about 10 are on duty at one time. 1
- (42) Machine-Repair Plant (Mashino-Remontnyy Zavod). This plant repairs all capital equipment, trucks, etc. as well as producing parts for trucks, excavators, and all gold mining equipment. It is directly subordinate to the Aldan Trust. It is a small factory of two floors. The plant employs free labor.
- (43) Savings bank.
- (44) Postoffice and the offices of the Communications Section (Otdel Svyazi). The Communications Section comprises the telephone-telegraph office and it is subordi- nate to the Yakutsk Communications Section. The building is two-stories high.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

-5-

- (45) Two-story building comprising offices of the Aldan Trust of the Yakutsk Gold Industry.
- (46) Two-story building comprising offices of the Aldan Worker (Aldanskiy Rabochiy), a newspaper.
- (47) Book store.
- (48) Pioneer club house.
- (49) A two-story building.
- (50) Club for students of the Mining Institute, a two-story building (see No. 28 of legend).
- (51) Department store (Univermag).
- (52) Rayon store (raymag).
- (53) Urban homes in which rooms are rented to private families. These homes are bought by UPP from private families who can no longer afford to keep them, and are rented on an individual room basis to other families. The houses are made of pine wood. There is a kitchen to every three or four families.
- (54) UPP horse park (konnyy park). UPP vehicles are kept here.
- (55) Rayvoyenkomat (Local Draft Board).
- (56) Iron works (liteynaya).
- (57) Nursery (yasli), a two-story building.
- (58) Two-story building comprising a kindergarten and a nursery.
- (60) Mining Institute dormitories.
- (61) School No. 6.
- (62) Mining Institute dining hall.
- (63) Garage of the Yakutsk Communications Directorate (Upravleniye Svyazi).
- (64) New two-story building.
- (65) Garage of the Aldan Directorate of the Amuro-Yakutskaya Magistral.
- (66) AYAM dining hall.
- (67) AYAM gas station.
- (68) Office of the AYAM. AYAM is not subordinate to the Aldan Trust but to the Aldan Directorate of the AYAM. It has only trucks and is responsible for the Amuro-Yakutskaya Magistral. AYAM has garages at 100 to 125 kilometer intervals along the entire highway from Aldan to Bolshoy Never. Besides serving as garages, these are the only gas stations along the highway. In every garage there is an emergency crew (avarinnaya gruppa) to handle accident and breakdown problems along the highway. The crews sally forth in three-axle, prewar, six-wheel, Studebaker trucks to help trucks stuck in snow storms, or having other trouble. According to source these are the only AYAM trucks that can be counted on not to get stuck no matter what the weather conditions. Other vehicles used by AYAM are

50X1

50X1

1. Comments: Source appeared to confuse the MVD, militsiya, and MGB. In paragraph 11 of this report, the 200 MVD police reported by source probably refer to the militsiya; the 500 MGB troops probably refer to the MVD troops.
2. Comment: Source insisted that the town of Bolshoy Never is actually called simply Never. This contradicts many existing maps of the area.

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

